

Graduations are happening all across the Nation, and I can't help but wonder, what sort of world will our graduates be entering? What will happen to the class of 2011?

Under the Republican budget plan, graduates are entering a world with job losses and stifled economic growth. Under the Republican legislative agenda, graduates are entering a world in which Big Oil is given a free pass, a free pass to "drill, baby, drill" with limited safety regulations and a free pass to drill with limited environmental safeguards.

Under the Republican-controlled House, new graduates are entering into a world in which their elected officials waste time and energy trying to repeal meaningful health care reform. Health care reform is creating jobs for the class of 2011. Thousands of students will be trained in the health care field. Don't repeal their jobs in health care. Leave ObamaCare alone. Leave their jobs alone.

A new graduate doesn't care about personal crusades lawmakers wage against women's rights and abortion. They care about jobs. They care about our Nation's future. They care about their future. Instead of political games, the time has come to focus on jobs. The time has come to focus on our Nation's future.

As States all across the Nation are facing severe fiscal problems, let's stop focusing on ways to end Medicare as we know it and ways to destroy the social support network that has taken generations to build in our country. Our seniors need Medicare. It is the safety net and infrastructure all seniors need as they grow older. Seniors are living longer. They get their prescription drugs, they can play with their grandchildren, and they are thriving under Medicare. Leave Medicare alone.

I propose that from now until August, each of us here in this Chamber come to Washington remembering the mandate from our constituents: focus on jobs, jobs, jobs. I don't care what kind of tea you party with. I don't care who your Presidential candidate is. I don't care how much press you garner. Join me in focusing on jobs, jobs, jobs.

Let's rebuild our manufacturing base, let's keep our beaches clean, and let's make it in America. Make it in America, baby, and create jobs, jobs, jobs.

INFRASTRUCTURE, JOBS, AND ENERGY INDEPENDENCE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, a gallon of gas is over \$4, heading to \$5. The average family spends \$2,200 more on gas than they did 2 years ago. Fourteen million Americans are out of work and wondering how they are going to put food on the table. America's infrastructure is

crumbling. A quarter of our bridges are structurally deficient.

The American Society of Civil Engineers says all our infrastructure needs are going to cost over \$2 trillion for roads, bridges, water, sewer systems, airports, locks and dams. Where will we find the money?

Well, we send \$100 billion each day to foreign nations for oil. OPEC exerts control over world oil prices and wants it to be \$200 per barrel. We are 60 percent dependent on foreign oil, and climbing. As a country, we waste 20 to 40 percent of our energy in inefficient buildings and factories.

Mr. Speaker, we want clean air and water. We want to see our highways and bridges fixed. We want clean power plants, lower energy prices, and don't pollute our environment. But where will the money come from?

Today, my colleagues and I on the Energy Working Group are introducing the Infrastructure, Jobs, and Energy Independence Act, a bipartisan bill that for the first time brings forward a comprehensive plan to rebuild America, take back our energy future, and create millions of jobs. We can become energy independent, we can create these jobs, and we can do it all without raising taxes or adding to the national debt.

How? Well, America has enough offshore reserves to replace all oil imports from Venezuela and Saudi Arabia for the next 80 years and enough clean natural gas to power industry for the next 63 years. Yet the drilling moratorium means that instead of using our own resources to grow jobs, we are supporting the economies of unstable regimes that want to do us harm.

Our plan opens the door to the safe, responsible expansion of energy production off our coasts, where there is \$8 trillion worth of economic output in oil and gas reserves offshore. Over 20 years, that translates to between \$2.5 trillion and \$3.7 trillion in new Federal revenues, from lease rights and royalties, without raising taxes.

That is \$440 billion for infrastructure of our roads and bridges; \$330 billion that we will invest in renewable energy sources and buildings and transportation; \$220 billion for clean coal technology; \$88 billion for environmental restoration to clean up our lakes, bays, rivers and streams; \$66 billion in energy conservation; \$110 billion for carbon-free technology and nuclear energy development; \$66 billion to rebuild our water and sewer systems in small towns and big cities all across America; \$44 billion for LIHEAP; and \$660 billion for States that are producing; and also several hundred billion to pay down the national debt.

Mr. Speaker, there is a plan for jobs and energy in America, and this is the plan that estimates are will create about 1 million jobs each year, new jobs in building highways and bridges, new jobs in developing our energy resources. And we can do it all.

I ask my colleagues to support the Infrastructure, Jobs, and Energy Inde-

pendence Act. Let's rebuild America, let's create jobs without raising taxes, let's stop borrowing from foreign nations, let's pay down our national debt, let's stop buying from OPEC, and let's use our rules and our laws to make sure we do all of this in a way that is environmentally sound so we can create jobs and have energy independence for this and the next generation.

TAPPING AMERICA'S INGENUITY AND CAN-DO SPIRIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. WALZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. I want to thank my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania, for his leadership, for his vision, and for the understanding that the American people sent us here to do America's work. Not one party's work, not ideological rigidity, but the idea to come together; that this Nation's bounty in terms of energy reserves and mineral resources, if used wisely and safely and reinvested in this Nation's future, can produce what we know needs to be done: strengthening our national security by making sure we control our energy destiny, making sure we control our economy, and making sure there's stability in where that energy comes from so that American families and businesses aren't forced through the ups and downs at the whims of nations that hate us.

We spend billions, hundreds of billions of dollars sending it to those nations that hate us. Heck, they'll hate us for free. And we can keep those jobs at home, we can keep the money at home, and we can invest. It's not an either/or proposition. Taking the royalties that belong to this Nation's people, allowing them to be gained, to be expanded, and to be done in a responsible manner is something everybody in this House wants. We can take those resources and reinvest them.

I am proud to come from southern Minnesota, a place where innovation is the air we breathe. We have the Mayo Clinic; we are the fourth leading producer of wind power; we are the leading producer of biofuels; we have the largest agricultural production; and we have good small employers manufacturing at home. That vision can be one that we control our destiny.

There is a group of us together, Democrats and Republicans, introducing something that can become law, that can do these things, that can reinvest in infrastructure, that can reinvest in conservation, that can make sure that we control our destiny. And the things that happen with dictators in the Middle East, the importance goes down. We control those things. We can do it. It's going to be on the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to join this piece of legislation. It is visionary. It is a compromise to get to there. It can work. It adds

nothing to the national debt, but reduces it. It adds nothing in taxes and it lets us control those things.

This bill, and I will add, the gentleman's work and my colleagues from California and across this Nation, was written by us and the American people, not lobbyists, not special interests. We sat in a room together and agreed to get along, to try to come together on things that we could work on to make this country work.

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That's going to be introduced today. It can happen. We owe it to the American people to get that done. Let's roll up the sleeves, tap that innovation, do the right things, get to work, and make this country energy independent. Let's secure our future both from a security standpoint and an economic standpoint and create jobs right at home.

Believe it or not, there are solutions coming right out of this Chamber.

CONGRATULATING GAIL ROMIG

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, each year the White House recognizes outstanding teachers for their contributions to the teaching and learning of mathematics and science through the prestigious Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science. On April 28, President Obama named 85 teachers as recipients of the 2010 award, one of which was from the Fifth District of Pennsylvania, Mifflin County resident Ms. Gail Romig, a teacher at State College Area School District.

Today, I want to thank Ms. Romig for her dedication to her students and commitment to the field of mathematics. We live in a global economy that is ever-changing and where America is forced to continually adapt, innovate, and find new ways to remain competitive in the global marketplace. Our competitiveness relies on the excellence of individuals in technical fields such as math and science. We rely on dedicated individuals like Ms. Romig to help create our next generation of technical minds.

From coast to coast, from urban enclaves to rural towns, teachers across the country are utilizing their expertise and creativity to equip the next generation of Americans to succeed and to lead.

Thank you to Ms. Romig and others like her all across the country that are working to ensure America is competitive for generations to come.

AMERICAN CONSERVATION AND CLEAN ENERGY INDEPENDENCE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join in with my colleagues in the introduction of legislation that we will be discussing later this afternoon: the Infrastructure Jobs and Energy Independence Act of 2011.

First of all, I would like to thank my colleagues who spoke a moment ago, Congressman TIM MURPHY and Congressman TIM WALZ, both who talked so importantly on the need to get our Nation's energy house in order.

Since the long gas lines of 1973, policymakers on both sides of the aisle have attempted various efforts to pursue an energy policy that would reduce our dependence on foreign sources of energy. And what has been lacking through all of those efforts since 1973 is a long-term plan that has bipartisan buy-in which we can stick to both in the near term and longer term to reach those goals. Why hasn't it happened? Because, unfortunately, too often here in these Chambers the lost art of the political compromise has gone away.

But today, with the introduction of the bipartisan Infrastructure Jobs and Energy Independence Act of 2011, we have an opportunity to come together as a House, to come together as a Nation. This is what the Bipartisan Energy Working Group has done over the last few months to really put together a piece of legislation that reflects past efforts, commonsense ideas that will enhance our path toward energy independence and national security through the following means. First, it would increase the production of domestic oil and gas on the Outer Continental Shelf. It would also increase sources of alternative energy utilizing clean energy technologies whenever possible. In addition to that, it would dedicate a fixed percentage of the royalties that we receive from oil and gas that is derived from Federal lands both onshore and offshore, the second-largest source of revenue to our Nation's Treasury, to the following purposes:

First of all, it would invest in our infrastructure revitalization and renewal that provides more jobs that are sorely needed. It would invest in conservation programs. It would invest in environmental restoration projects. It would invest so importantly in renewable energy research and development so that once again we can regain the lead around the world. It would invest in clean energy technology as well as increasing development of existing as well as traditional energy sources, like improving our transmission lines. And it would provide energy assistance for those most in need. Sharing a portion of such royalties with producing States also would provide an incentive for those States. And it would increase the diversification and efficiency of America's transportation system, among other things.

As a Nation, we must work together toward realistic energy policy. At the end of the day, we cannot afford to take any energy sources off the table. As many of you know, I am a firm be-

liever in using all of the energy tools in our Nation's energy toolbox. And that's what we need to do. Conventional energy, together with renewable resources and a strategy for energy conservation, will best serve our long-term energy needs—the best management practices our Nation has to offer.

As we create new comprehensive energy policy to reduce our dependency on foreign sources of energy, reducing our dependence on those nations, it will make a big difference in America. I believe it's important for us to understand and agree to realistic transitional timelines as we embark upon this bipartisan energy policy both in the near term and the long term.

Finally, I look forward to cooperating and collaborating again with the members of the Bipartisan Energy Working Group and other Members of Congress to address ways in which our Nation's energy sources can best be utilized to help us secure that balanced energy future in the 21st century, which is what all Americans want us to do. I believe this legislation that we will introduce this afternoon will put us along that path for a long-term secure energy future for America in the 21st century.

IMPLEMENTING SMART ENERGY PLANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. NUNNELEE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NUNNELEE. This morning, in Tupelo, Mississippi, Whiteside's Restaurant is quiet. The lights are turned off. Tables around which coffee and conversation had flowed freely, a place where I have enjoyed many great meals, is quiet this morning. And on the front door there's a sign that simply says, "Due to the economy and Uncle Sam, Whiteside's is closed. Donna Whiteside said that the driving force in her closing her business was higher taxes, increased gas prices, and a sluggish economy. Higher gas prices have become a cruel tax on all Americans. Donna Whiteside saw it as her customers had shrinking disposable incomes because of higher gas prices. Donna Whiteside saw that the cost of her groceries were going up because of higher gas prices.

What is not helping Americans get relief at the pump is the stalling of energy production by this administration. Since taking office, President Obama has actively delayed, blocked, and stalled American energy production—and the American people are sick of these stalling tactics. That's why the House of Representatives is concentrating on three key initiatives that will reverse the Obama administration's policies that are hurting families and small businesses, destroying jobs, and increasing our reliance on foreign oil.

Last week, the House passed the Restarting American Offshore Leasing